

TESTIMONY OF LOUIS W. BACH
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT OF THE
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Good morning Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the higher education committee. My name is Louis W. Bach, testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA's 10,000 member companies represent the broad diversity of the state's private sector and are among the world's most innovative and productive businesses. We are pleased to support the following bills being heard today:

SB-383 AAC MANUFACTURING INTERNSHIPS. Currently, students preparing for a manufacturing career in Connecticut are precluded from a hands-on learning experience until the age of eighteen. For students in high school this threshold comes for most in their final year of school, if at all before graduation. One can imagine a scenario where a student in one of our excellent technical high schools, eager to learn the latest techniques or work with the newest equipment, may not supplement his or her studies with an internship because of the age restriction.

This bill would give upper class high school students access to real manufacturing environments, taking their education from theory to practice. We heartily endorse this bill.

HB-5060 AA ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR CORPORATE DONATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. Understanding that this year is a difficult one when it comes to the extension of tax credits; the credit proposed in this bill directly incentivizes private donations to our schools which is a benefit to the state that exceeds any lost revenue. We support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today; I would be happy to answer any questions.